

Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a communication procedure between instances, with one instance being a protocol tester, comprising the steps of:

selecting the instances that take part in the communication procedure;
selecting a protocol layer to be emulated on the basis of the communication procedure;
selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure;
selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and
automatically setting up through the protocol tester the communication procedure on the basis of the selections made in the above selecting steps, with parameters for the abstract communication interfaces selecting and/or the communication data selecting steps being made graphically and parameters selectable during these steps being assigned description files that are used in the setting up step to set up the communication procedure.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instances selecting step comprises the step of selecting the instances graphically, and/or the emulated protocol layer selecting step comprises the step of selecting the emulated protocol layer graphically, and the parameters selectable in these steps being assigned description files that are used in the setting up step.

Claim 3. (Original) The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

Claim 4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 5. (Original) The method as recited in claims 1 or 2 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the communication data selecting step comprises the steps of:

graphically selecting a data format; and

graphically setting up a communication sequence between the selected instances.

Claim 7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the graphically setting up step comprises the step of entering source code.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A protocol tester comprising:

means for selecting instances taking part in a communication procedure, one of the instances being the protocol tester;

means for selecting a protocol layer to be emulated on the basis of the communication procedure;

means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure;

means for selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and

means for automatically setting up the communication procedure through the protocol tester on the basis of the selections of the various selecting means, with parameters for the abstract communication interfaces selecting means and/or the communication data selecting means being made graphically selecting means and parameters selected by the various selecting means being assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means for setting up the communication procedure.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein the instances selecting means and/or the emulated protocol layer selecting means

comprise graphical selecting means and the parameters selected by these selecting means are assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means.

Claim 10. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claims 8 or 9 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

Claim 11. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 10 wherein the communication data comprises one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

Claim 12. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 11 further comprising means for entering source codes.

Claim 13. (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein all parameters selected by all the selecting means are assigned description files that are used by the setting up means.